

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Merrill Friedemann, Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, William Day, and Sue Cienki, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara

2. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. State of District

a. Superintendent's Update

Mr. Meyers spoke about the curriculum cycle handout completed by Linda Newman, the district's curriculum consultant, noting that she has been outstanding in working with the high school on the new initiatives.

b. Staff Updates

1. Presentation on High School Regulations and Diploma System

Mrs. Newman gave a history of state and federal mandates, noting that No Child Left Behind says that all students have to meet state standards. Mr. Michael Levine, High School Principal, gave reports on NEASC, Salt Visit, Performance Based Graduation Requirements, and

Peer Review. Mrs. Cullen spoke about the Senior Project and Portfolio. Mrs. Lyn Hostetler and Mrs. Patricia Dulac, stated that the high school is in the process of the self study in preparation for the Salt visit. They noted that student learning is the focus of the visit.

Mr. Levine spoke about the budgetary impact with the need for additional courses and teachers. Mr. Gregson asked if any grant dollars were available. Mrs. Friedemann stated that she was at a meeting of state legislators and asked if money was going to come from the state to fund these mandates. The Superintendent asked the School Committee to give him a direction in what they feel is a reasonable increase for 2007, then he will meet with the administrators. Dr. Ross stated that he is angry at the state because East Greenwich is one of the best school systems in the state but other communities are getting more money in order to fund these mandates.

c. Reports

1. Financial

Mrs. Crawford submitted a budget report for 2005-2006.

4. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Mrs. Joanne Leach asked about a letter sent out to all schools asking for donations for the family of Margaret Duffy-Stephenson. She stated that the School Committee should find a solution to this issue.

Mr. Meyers said he would look into this letter and get back to her.

5. Recognitions

5.1 Adam Scott and Andrew Longo were recognized for presenting at the New England League of Middle School Science Teacher's

Conference.

6. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of School Committee meetings as follows:

6.1 November 16, 2005 School Committee Meetings

6.2 November 22, 2005 School Committee Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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7. New Business

7.1a. Appointments

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve appointments 7.1.1

through 7.1.8.

7.1.1 James Muto, maintenance worker for the East Greenwich Public Schools, effective December 5, 2005

7.1.2 Lisa Kane, paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective November 9, 2005

7.1.3 Lisa Curran, Assistant Girls' Track Coach at the high school for the winter season

7.1.4 Charlotte Evasick, head boys' indoor track coach at East Greenwich High School, for the winter season

7.1.5 Karen Murtha, co-advisor for the high school yearbook

7.1.6 Tana Fatkin, boys' basketball cheerleading advisor for the winter season, pending receipt of her background check

7.1.7 Alicia Mahoney, cheerleading advisor for hockey, for the winter

season, pending receipt of her background check

7.1.8 Joshua Odugbela, head freshman boys' basketball coach at East Greenwich High School, for the winter season, pending receipt of his background check. The motion passed unanimously.

7.1b Approval of Teacher in Residence at GEMS NET, Adam Scott, for 06-07 and 07-08

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve Adam Scott for the Teacher in Residence Program. Mr. Scott will be back to teach at Cole Middle School after the 2 year program. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Vote on reconciled FY 06 Budget to agree with FTM approved amount

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve \$27,678,413 as the adopted budget figure for FY 2006. Mrs. Friedemann, Mr. Gregson and Dr. Ross voted no, and Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Day and Mr. Martin voted yes. The motion passed. Dr. Ross made a motion to replace the cuts to supplies in the amount of \$67,241 from the undesignated fund balance to put back resources the children need. This was seconded by Mr. Day and was unanimous.

9. Discussion of New Laws-Health and Nutrition in Schools

Dr. Ross is the chair of this committee and he will set up a meeting.

10. Discussion of Character Education Initiative: Character Counts

Nancy Merrill would like to this program be a part of the town mission. It was explained that the program incorporates the Six

Pillars of Character, helping students make good choices. Bob Houghtaling stated that it is a chance to interact with students on a different level. The first reading will be at the December 20 meeting.

11. School Committee Meeting Dates for 2006

Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the meeting dates for 2006. Mr. Martin made a motion to have the July and August meetings at the Town Hall. Mr. Day seconded the motion. The motion passed with Dr. Ross voting no. The motion to approve the meeting dates for 2006 as amended passed with Mr. Martin voting no.

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12. Mandated Resolution on Code of Basic Management Principles and Ethical School Standards

R.I.G.L. 16-2-9.1. Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the resolution to establish a Code of Basic Management Principles and Ethical School Standards, which is required by State Law. Christine Curley, one of the School Committee Lawyers, stated that every School Committee should have this in place. She added that they are free to develop their own additions but need to keep the original law. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion to table this until more research is done. Mr. Gregson seconded the motion to table but it did not pass because Mrs. Friedemann and Mr. Gregson voted yes, Dr. Ross abstained, and Mr. Day, Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Bradley and Mr. Martin voted no. Mrs. Cienki

stated that before the School Committee can set their goals, they have to approve this pass the Code of Ethics. On the original motion, Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Friedemann voted no, and Mr. Bradley, Dr. Ross, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cienki and Mr. Day voted yes. The motion passed.

13. Approval of High School Program of Studies

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the out-of-state field trips with the appropriate chaperones. Mrs. Friedemann and Mr. Gregson voted no, and Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Martin, Mr. Day and Dr. Ross voted yes. The motion passed.

14. Out-of-State Field Trips

14.1 Ski Trip to Maine by Cole Middle School Ski Club-January 13-16, 2006

15. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Cienki asked that Roger Allard be used as efficiently as possible since he is limited in the number of days in which he can work for the school department.

Mr. Bradley stated that Mr. Wilmarth did a great job in setting up for the meeting.

16. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda. There were no public comments.

17. On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:48 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Personnel, Administrator's Expiring Contracts, Athletic Director Arbitration, and Litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary